

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 03078 030232Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
DODE-00 PA-01 /092 W
-----065487 031409Z /42

R 021815Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2745
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03078

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, RH
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH ZANU REPRESENTATIVE

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET WITH EDDISON ZVOBGO, ZANU DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION ON AUGUST 2. ZVOBGO ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE NEW EFFORT TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN ZIMBABWE NOW THAT NAMIBIA EXERCISE WAS OVER. HE CHIDED YOUNG THAT LOW AND GRAHAM HAD GONE TO MAPUTO "PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED" REGARDING AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS PREPARED TO MOUNT A MAJOR COORDINATED "TETE OFFENSIVE" DURING THE OCTOBER RAINY SEASON WHICH WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT THE INTERNAL REGIME DID NOT HAVE CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY AND COULD NOT CONDUCT ELECTIONS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SANCTIONS REPEAL AND RUMORS OF UK EVACUATION PROCEDURES. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 03078 030232Z

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET AUGUST 2, 1978 WITH EDDISON ZVOBGO, ZANU DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION. ZVOBGO, WHO WAS ENROUTE TO CHICAGO TO COLLECT HIS FAMILY BEFORE RETURNING TO MAPUTO, INDICATED THAT MUGABE HAD NO PLANS TO STOP IN THE U.S. ON HIS RETURN TO MAPUTO FROM CUBA.

3. ZVOBGO SAID LOW AND GRAHAM HAD COME TO MAPUTO "PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED" AND ZANU HAD ENCOURAGED THEM TO GO BACK TO SALISBURY TO TALK TO SMITH AND COMPANY SINCE THEY WERE THE ONES WHO REJECTED THE ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE.

4. ZVOBGO SAID THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE HELMS AMENDMENT AND ITS POTENTIAL EFFECT ON THE NEGOTIATING INITIATIVE. YOUNG EXPLAINED THE U.S. POSITION ON THE AMENDMENT, THE ADMINISTRATION'S DIFFICULTY IN DEFEATING IT, AND THE ROLE BISHOP MUZOREWA PLAYED IN LOBBYING FOR ITS PASSAGE.

5. ZVOBGO MENTIONED UK MP JOHN DAVIES' VISIT TO SALISBURY AND THE SUBSEQUENT ARTICLE HE WROTE IN THE DAILY TELEGRAPH ABOUT THE INADEQUACIES OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. ZVOBGO ALSO SPOKE KINDLY OF DAVID OWEN'S STATEMENTS WHICH CAST DOUBT ON THE ELIM MASSACRES.

6. ZVOBGO SAID ZANU WAS DOING EXTREMELY WELL MILITARILY IN THE FIELD AND THAT THE BISHOP AND SITHOLE WERE DELUDING THEMSELVES INTO BELIEVING THERE WAS A CEASEFIRE IN FORCE IN AREAS WHERE THEY PLANNED TO ORGANIZE AND TRAIN LOCAL LEADERSHIP. HE SAID ZANU WAS PREPARING AND ARMING THE PEOPLE IN THESE AREAS. ZVOBGO DOUBTED THAT THE RECENT RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE WERE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 03078 030232Z

SUCCESSFUL AND THAT AT BEST, THE RHODESIANS BOMBED AND SET FIRE TO SMALL VILLAGES.

7. ZVOBGO VOICED HIS SURPRISE THAT SMITH PLANNED TO HOLD THE TOTAL ELECTIONS DURING THE RAINY SEASON, AND HE SEEMED TO TAKE PLEASURE IN THE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH A MOVE FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. ZVOBGO SAID THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD PLANS FOR ITS OWN COORDINATED "TETE OFFENSIVE" FOR MID-OCTOBER 1978.

8. IN DISCUSSING THE ELECTIONS ZVOBGO SAID CHIRAU WOULD DO VERY WELL AMONG THE TRADITIONAL TRIBAL CHIEFS AND HE EXPECTED SMITH AND CHIRAU TO DO BETTER THAN SITHOLE AND THE BISHOP, BUT UNQUESTIONABLY IT WOULD BE AN OVERALL FAILURE.

9. ZVOBGO ASKED IF YOUNG HAD HEARD OF UK PLANS TO RESCUE WHITES FROM RHODESIAN AIRPORTS. YOUNG REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT HEARD OF ANY SUCH PLANS, HE FELT THIS WAS A SUBJECT THAT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED, POSSIBLY IN THE UN CONTEXT.

10. COMMENT: ZVOBGO'S STYLE IS ONE OF CONSTANT TEASING AND "PUTTING ONE ON." IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE IF HE IS GIVING YOU THE PARTY LINE OR HIS PERSONAL OPINIONS. HOWEVER, ON THE PAST THREE OCCASIONS WHEN HE HAS SOUGHT ME OUT, I DID FEEL THAT HE WAS COMMUNICATING THE OFFICIAL LINE. HE HAS NEVER GIVEN ME THE HEAVY RHETORICAL TREATMENT THAT HE HAS GIVEN TO OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS. YOUNG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN03078
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780318-0359
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808105/aaaadkbo.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 862b0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1554764
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH ZANU REPRESENTATIVE
TAGS: PEPR, PDEV, RH, US, ZANU, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (ZVOBGO, EDDISON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/862b0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014